

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06741 191650Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T AMMAN 06741

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XF, JO, US, PPDC
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

REF: (A) STATE 205956, (B) STATE 205955, (C) STATE 208650

1. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER ON CAMP DAVID
SUMMIT (REF. A) TO KING HUSSEIN ON AUGUST 19, FOLLOWING
KING'S RETURN FROM AQABA.

2. I MENTIONED THAT LETTER RE-AFFIRMED DIRECTLY FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER THE BASIC PRESENTATION MADE BY AMBASSADOR
ATHERTON TO KING LAST WEEK. KING THEN READ LETTER CARE-
FULLY IN MY PRESENCE AND I SUPPLEMENTED ITS POINTS BY
DRAWING FROM GUIDANCE IN REF. B AND FROM CLARIFICATION IN
REF. C THAT PRESIDENT'S RECENT STATEMENT ABOUT U. S.
WRITTEN PROPOSALS REFERRED TO POINTS PRESENTED BY SECRETARY
VANCE IN AUGUST OF LAST YEAR. I ADDED THAT WE HAD ALSO
EXPRESSED PUBLICLY OUR APPRECIATION FOR KING'S SUPPORT FOR
CAMP DAVID TALKS.

3. IN REPLY, KING SAID HE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED PRESIDENT
CARTER'S LETTER AND THE FACT OF HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT
IN THIS DIFFICULT ISSUE. KING SAID JORDAN "WILL BE HOPING
FOR THE BEST" AT THE SUMMIT'S OUTCOME, ADDING THAT IT MAY
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BE "THE LAST CHANCE" FOR THE CURRENT PEACE EFFORT.

4. I NOTED NEWS IN TODAY'S PRESS OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S
RECENT LETTER TO KING AND KING REPLIED THAT SADAT
"EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN IN RATHER STRONG LANGUAGE OVER THE
U. S. POSITION" (IMPLYING THEREBY TO MY MIND THAT SADAT
WAS NOT SURE THAT U. S. POSITION WOULD BE ABLE TO SATISFY

SADAT'S REQUIREMENTS.) KING SAID SADAT LETTER HAD RE-ITERATED SADAT'S BASIC POSITION ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND RECOGNIZED THAT THERE IS NO PLACE FOR JORDAN IN NEGOTIATIONS WHILE THESE BASIC ISSUES REMAIN UNRESOLVED.

5. IN CLOSING, I MENTIONED THAT USG IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN INTENSIVE EFFORT TO PREPARE FOR SUMMIT AND, AS AMBASSADOR ATHERTON HAD MENTIONED, I WAS AVAILABLE TO CONVEY ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS JORDAN MAY HAVE REGARDING THE ISSUES PRIOR TO THE TALKS. KING THANKED ME AND SAID HE TOO IS AVAILABLE IF WE HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER TO CONVEY TO HIM.

6. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE QUITE CLEARLY RE-INFORCED CENTRAL POINTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR ATHERTON ON HIS RECENT VISIT: (1) FACT THAT CAMP DAVID TALKS BASED ON RESOLUTION 242 AND (2) OUR HOPE THAT PROGRESS AT CAMP DAVID TOWARDS AGREEMENT ON A FRAMEWORK WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR JORDAN TO JOIN NEGOTIATIONS. KING HUSSEIN APPEARED TO WISH US WELL, WHILE AT SAME TIME RETAINING HIS SKEPTICISM THAT TALKS WILL BRING ANY CHANGE IN ISRAELI POSITION ON WEST BANK WITHDRAWAL OR ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

7. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO CAIRO. SUDDARTH

SECRET

NNN

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